

THE WHITE-MARKED TUSSOCK MOTH.

Hemerocampa leucostigma (Sm. & Ab.)

By WILLIAM McINTOSH.

IN New Brunswick at least three kinds of Tussock Moths occur. *Notolopus antiqua* (Rusty Tussock moth), *Hemerocampa definita* (Definite marked Tussock moth) and *Hemerocampa leucostigma*, (the white-marked Tussock Moth.) The two species first named are very generally distributed over the Province, but do not occur in sufficient numbers to cause great damage. The white-marked Tussock, while not so evenly distributed throughout New Brunswick, is a far more dangerous insect than either of the others. It seems to thrive best in towns, villages and thickly populated districts. It is claimed that the reason for this is the protection afforded by English sparrows, which drive away the native birds that formerly destroyed the caterpillars of this moth.

Halifax, Charlottetown, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and other Canadian cities have had serious outbreaks of this insect during the past few years, and in a great number of the cities and towns of the eastern United States it has been a veritable scourge. While its activities were more marked in the more populous centres, in 1908 very serious damage was done to the apple orchards in some sections of New York state, a number of growers estimating their loss at twenty-five per cent of the total crop. In the past ten years there have been numerous records of damage to fruit trees by this pest.

Lately, this insect has been increasing very rapidly in south-eastern New Brunswick, and last summer (1916) the Tussock caterpillars appeared in immense numbers in the City of Moncton and vicinity. Throughout the summer they did a great deal of damage to shade trees, and caused much inconvenience to citizens by swarming into houses and places of business. In one or two cases, families had to leave their homes to escape the caterpillars which could not be kept out of the houses.